

Refreshments

Our December member cookie exchange was a great success! RISN members shared many delightful treats and traveled home with a cookie sampler tray to enjoy during the holidays. Members enjoyed fruit and veggie platters along with cheese and crackers. For our March meeting a soup and bread buffet is planned. If you have a great soup recipe to create or enjoy baking bread please contact Deb Siravo at 401-207-1323 or via email at deblily@cox.net.

For Sale

Have you been “tidying up” after the holidays and have sewing items which no longer bring you “joy”? Please consider selling or even given away those items and let them bring joy and inspiration to someone else. Members who have items for sale are invited to set up a table at any of our meetings. Any craft or supply is suitable.

Have a sewing/craft related business? Why not consider showcasing/selling your items at a meeting? Please limit your selling space to one table.

DIRECTIONS TO GREENWICH CLUB

From the South: Take 95 North to exit 8A (Rt. 2 Warwick/E. Greenwich). Stay on Rt.2, go to the traffic light at the Showcase Cinema, take a left onto Division Street (Rt. 401), follow to 2nd traffic light, and take right onto Post Road/Rt. 1. The Greenwich Club, 5426 Post Road, is on your left.

From the North: Take 95 South to exit 9 (Rt. 4 South).

Take the first exit which will bring you to Rt. 401 (E. Greenwich/Division St.). At the end of the exit ramp facing straight, take a right turn onto Division Street. **Continue to follow above directions once on Division Street.**

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On the Web with RISN

<http://www.rhodeislandsewingnetwork.com>

Membership information can be found on our website. On Facebook, we are listed as Rhode Island Sewing Network and you will find a link on the webpage to bring you directly to our Facebook page.



March Meeting

March 1, 2016

“Irish Step Dancing Costumes and Embroidery” will be the focus of our March meeting program presented by Jennifer MacLellan and Joann Connolly. Jen and Joann are the creative forces behind “Magpie Collection” – a company that designs and creates custom Irish step dancing competition costumes. Both are life-long seamstresses and they bring a combined twenty three years of machine embroidery experience to their business.

Jen is an alum of the Rhode Island Sewing Network’s Master Seamstress Program. Her Irish step school dress business – Jiggerdy Jig – supplies dresses to many of New England’s top Irish dance schools. Joann is a columnist for *Designs in Machine Embroidery* magazine, a published machine embroidery book author and an instructor at Craftsy.com.

Jen and Joann will detail their method for producing their dresses, including their machine embroidery and construction processes. They will also

explore the creative nature of machine embroidery and how it can enhance one's existing sewing skills. Both feel blessed to be able to work (play?) together sharing their passion and refer to it as "extreme sewing". Please visit their websites for more information.

www.jiggedyjig.net and
www.gardenofdaisies.com.

RISN Meetings

GREENWICH CLUB
5426 Post Road
East Greenwich, Rhode Island
02818

First Tuesday of the Month
@ 7:00 pm

RISN 2015-2016 Meeting Dates and Presenters

April 5, 2016 "Christening Dresses" by Kathy Oates-Dacey. Kathy does beautiful heirloom, smocking and embroidery work. She has taken classes from professionals from all over the world.

May 3, 2016 "The Fabric of My Life": a Sartorial Autobiography by Tziporah Salamon. This is a one woman show, Tziporah weaves a rich tapestry of her journey towards self.
www.tziporahsalamon.com

Save the Date!

**June 8, 2016
New York City
Garment District Bus Trip**

December Program Highlights

Our December program, "Felted Handbags", was presented by Gail Solomon and Barbara Materna, owners of Jack + Cookie located in *Hope Artiste Village*. Gail and Barbara design and create hand knitted and hand felted handbags and totes and treated RISN members to a behind the scenes look at the making of their handbags.

Barbara shared that she participated in the Master Seamstress program about ten years ago and enjoys knitting. She uses silk wool, worsted wool, merino wool, alpaca wool, and blends various yarns. Gail acknowledged that she does not sew but contributes her graphic design talents to draft the handbag patterns. They shared a video on the felting process, techniques for attaching hardware and handles, and the construction of the bags.

Their bags included felted styles, artist painted canvas totes and nautical printed bags on varnished cotton twill. Gail and Barbara have created an eclectic variety of styles that include evening clutches to beach totes, cross body bags in several sizes. Their signature bag is a beautiful felted 100% wool carryall created from filzfelt. (www.filzfelt.com)

Gail and Barbara were generous in sharing their material sources and construction techniques. They use an interesting selection of hardware which includes everything from automotive piping to beautiful zippers from RiRi, a Swiss manufacturer. Cobra snaps and fasteners and Jul Hardware for rivets and clasps are used to construct the bags..

Inspire™ is used to make the bottom of the bags firm and Gutterman or Metz thread is used with a size 14 needle for construction. Outside seams on their signature bag measure 3/16 inch. Gail sews

on a Janome Professional machine which she said handles the thick fabric quite nicely. It takes about 3 hours to make one bag.

Gail and Barbara also create their own fabric for their canvas bags using the online site Spoonflower.

Please visit Gail and Barbara's website www.jackandcookie.com to see examples of their work.

Show and Share

Jackie Guerra Lofgren opened our Show and Share with a beautiful felted circle jacket from Germany. She was followed by Robin Donahue who shared twenty-three appliqued and embroidered Christmas stockings which she made for her family. She noted that she began the project in May 2015 and there are ten hours of work in each stocking. Robin used patterns available from arkathwyn.com. Jean Mueller Burgess modeled her creatively refashioned clothing using zippers and trim. Rose O'Koren announced that Susan Love and her students made 110 purses for her annual Christmas 18 inch doll project. Rose also modeled a tulip style skirt made with a free pattern from Craftsy, a "two hour" jacket that took ten hours, and a black and white sheath dress. Mary Jo Hines shared an asymmetrical, long evening dress (Butterick 4343) and matching tie for her husband which they wore to the Sojourner House Ball. Susan Love spoke about her students' purse project. Maggie Grenier wore her "free fabric" jacket noting that she made the frog closure with directions from *Threads*. Cindy King shared a fabric book of colors. Catherine Stevens closed our Show and Share with several children's super hero costumes.

